

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9886

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, IT

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - CONSULTATIONS WITH GOI

REF: STATE 46737

1. ITALIANS HAVE WEEK OF MARCH 31 OPEN, BUT MARCH 31 IS NATIONAL HOLIDAY. MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) AND HEAD OF DELEGATION SANTINI PRESSING CIVILAVIA FOR MARCH 31 DEPARTURE, WHICH WOULD PERMIT 4 WORKING DAYS --TUESDAY-FRIDAY-- FOR CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON. CIVILAVIA APPARENTLY RESISTING TRAVEL ON OFFICIAL HOLIDAY, BUT MFA REP FIACCADORI (DIRECTOR, CIVAIR AFFAIRS) HOPES HE AND SANTINI CAN PERSUDE THEM OF NECESSITY FOR MONDAY DEPARTURE. SINCE MARCH 30 IS EASTER SUNDAY, THERE IS NO RPT NO POSSIBILITY THAT ITALIAN REPS COULD DEPART IN TIME TO BEGIN CONSULTATIONS ON MARCH 31 (MONDAY). FIACCADORI BELIEVES MIGHT BE POSSIBLE CONCLUDE CONSULTATIONS IN 4 DAYS, BUT FIRMLY BELIEVES 3 DAYS WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE SUFFICIENT.

2. ACCORDING FIACCADORI, SANTINI WILL HEAD ITALIAN DELEGATION. FIACCADORI WILL BE MFA REP. BOTH CIVILAVIA DIRECTOR GENERAL MOCI AND CHIEF AIR TRANSPORT SERVICES SITAJOLO HAVE INDICATED THEY UNWILLING SIT ON DELEGATION HEADED BY SANTINI. CONSEQUENTLY, CIVILAVIA REP MAY BE LIOI, WHICH WOULD BE IDEAL FROM EMBASSY'S VIEWPOINT, AS HE FAMILIAR

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WITH BOTH LEGAL ASPECTS AND SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEMS. DELEGATION

WILL INCLUDE 2 ALITALIA "OBSERVERS", ONE OF WHOM MAY BE
LECCESE. FIACCADORI PROMISED PROVIDE LIST OF ITALIAN
DELEGATION MEMBERS AS SOON AS AVAILABLE AND ASKED THAT
EMBASSY PROVIDE NAMES OF US DELEGATION MEMBERS ASAP.

3. FIACCADORI SAID GOI HOPED FOR LIMITED AGENDA AND ASKED
THAT USG PROVIDE SUGGESTED AGENDA ASAP, SINCE ITALIAN
DELEGATION PLANS INITIAL MEETING TO PREPARE FOR
CONSULTATIONS ON MARCH 8. HE SAID HE HOPES US SIDE
WOULD NOT RPT NOT INTRODUCE ROME AIRPORTS GROUND SERVICES
ISSUE, SINCE PROBLEM IS SO COMPLEX ON ITALIAN SIDE THAT IT
WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE POSSIBLE PROVIDE DEFINITIVE GOI
POSITION BY END OF MARCH. EMBOFF SAID USG WOULD DEFINITELY
WISH INCLUDE THIS ISSUE IN CONSULTATIONS EVEN IF GOI STILL
CONSIDERING MATTER INTERNALLY.

4. ONLY OTHER ALTERNATIVE DATE AVAILABLE GOI MAY BE WEEK OF
MARCH 24. WEEK OF APRIL 7 RESERVED FOR CZECHS AND WEEK OF
APRIL 14 FOR AUSTRALIANS. ANY TIME BEFORE MARCH 24 CONSIDERED
TOO SOON FOR ADEQUATE PREPARATION.

5. FIACCADORI PROMISED FORMAL RESPONSE ASAP TO EMBASSY'S
NOTE PROPOSING WEEK OF MARCH 31 IN WASHINGTON.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON'S
SUGGESTED AGENDA AND LIST OF US DELEGATION MEMBERS ASAP.
DO WASHINGTON AGENCIES CONSIDER 4 DAYS ADEQUATE TIME?VOLPE

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